

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated December 9, 2003. Reconsideration of the rejections delineated therein is hereby respectfully requested.

It is initially noted that claims 1-5 have been cancelled, and, therefore, no discussion of the rejections thereof is contained in these Remarks (as all rejections are now moot).

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

In response to the Examiner's objection to the "disclosure", a description of Figure 5h has been added by an above amendment.

As the description is derived from the original specification and/or drawings, no new matter is believed to have been added. Withdrawal of the Examiner's objections is respectfully solicited.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

The Examiner has rejected claims 7-13 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. In response thereto, Applicant has amended the claims according to the kind suggestions of the Examiner. Entry and acceptance of the above amendments as well as the withdrawal of the subject rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner has indicated that claim 6 recites allowable subject matter. Claim 6 has therefore been amended to include all of the limitations of its base

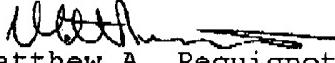
claim. Allowance thereof is therefore respectfully requested.

The Office Action indicates that claim 7 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. As claim 7 has been amended above to correct such rejections, an indication of allowance of claim 7 is respectfully solicited. Because claims 8-13 each depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 7, their allowance is additionally solicited.

Although all issues are believed to have been resolved herein, if any issues are determined to remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned telephonically so that such issues can be resolved most expeditiously. Although no fees are believed to be due, if any fees are determined to be required, please charge them to Deposit Account 50-0644.

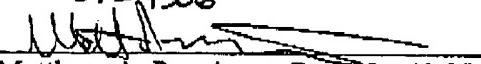
Respectfully Submitted,

Date: April 23, 2004


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Attachments

I hereby certify that this document is being transmitted by facsimile to the U.S.P.T.O. at 703-305-3599 on April 23, 2004.

872-9306

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